



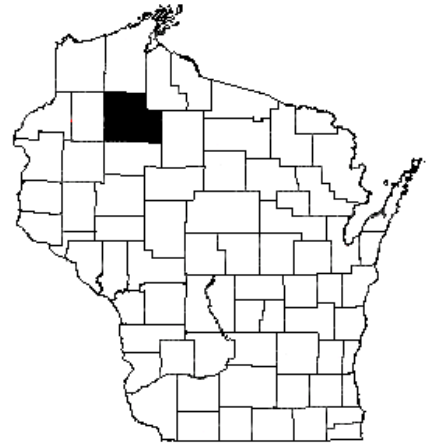
Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Back Yard

Sawyer County

County Characteristics

- 1,354 square miles
- Mostly mixed conifer and deciduous forest. Scattered farms along major state and county trunk highways.
- 496 lakes; 94 are publicly accessible and total 48,852 acres
- 181 miles of trout stream and 125 miles of floatable rivers
- There are 16,584 residents of Sawyer County.



Public Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 38% of Sawyer County is publicly-owned as follows: U.S. Forest Service (121,000 ac.), Sawyer County Forest (114,000 ac.), State Forest (62,000 ac.), Totogatic River Wildlife Area (2,350 ac.), Weirgor Springs Wildlife Area (2,049 ac.), Chief River Wildlife Area (1,183 ac.), Kissick Swamp Wildlife Area (941 ac.), Flat Creek Wildlife Area (213 ac.), Bean Brook Wildlife Area (80 ac.), Kissick Alkaline Bog Natural Area (160 ac.) and 8 special Fisheries Areas totaling 1,500 acres.
- Over 305,000 acres open to hunting and fishing
- All state lands are managed and maintained by using license fee dollars.

Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html

Fish, Wildlife, Law Enforcement, and Customer Service Staff

- 1 Wildlife Biologist; 1 Wildlife Technician; 1 Fisheries Biologist; 1 Fisheries Technician; 2 Conservation Wardens; and 2 full-time customer service staff at the Hayward Service Center. Multiple-county facility managers and Wildlife and Fisheries team leaders are based in Hayward.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Customer service staff at Hayward assists more than 1,500 people monthly.
- Facility managers create and maintain public access facilities, including boat ramps on 9 public waters.
- Facility managers monitor wildlife, protect scenic beauty, and manage camping and other public uses on the world-renowned Chippewa Flowage and its many state-owned islands.
- Fisheries staff have cooperated with private partners to enhance aquatic habitat by installing more than 2,000 deepwater habitat structures (fish cribs) in 12 Sawyer County lakes over the past decade
- Fisheries staff conduct fish population surveys to evaluate the results of quality panfish regulations (7 lakes), trophy muskellunge regulations (4 lakes), special walleye regulations and stocking, wild trout stocking, and the operation of 5 hydropower dams on 4 rivers.
- Wardens partnered with the Exeland Rod & Gun Club to provide a kids' fishing day in Exeland where kids were taught casting, hook tying and bait selection and learned about fishing, fishing regulations and ethics.
- Wardens assisted the Winter Conservation Field day in Ojibwa, educating a large number of children about fishing, hunting, and fish and wildlife identification.

- Wardens assisted the Winter Lakes Alliance at their summer and winter fishing tournaments teaching kids how to identify and catch fish.
- Fisheries staff conducts approximately 20 programs annually that provide kids with hands-on experiences in angling and aquatic ecology.
- Wardens partnered with Sawyer County Hunter Education Instructors to provide a Summit Lake Youth Day to all Sawyer County Hunter Education graduates. The students received training on sporting clays, .22 rifles, pheasant hunting, archery hunting, tree stand safety, game processing and trapping.
- Wardens conducted hunting, fishing and trapping investigations; and they issued over 200 civil and criminal citations for fish and game violations.
- Wildlife staff manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, maintaining parking areas, maintaining impoundment water levels, managing forest habitat through timber sales on state and county land, mowing openings and hunter walking trails, and developing habitat improvement projects on private conservation easement properties.
- Wildlife biologists monitor local wildlife populations of elk, ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer, bear, frogs, grassland birds, sharptail grouse, eagles, osprey, wolves and various endangered and threatened species. They maintain 7 registration stations for deer, turkey, bear, and sturgeon.
- Wildlife staff responds to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitors wildlife diseases including Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and West Nile Virus.
- Wildlife staff evaluates proposed projects on wetlands and water areas for environmental impacts, works to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.



Fish Stocking Summary

- 250,000 small fingerling and 11,000 large fingerling walleyes in 18 lakes annually
- 7,500 large fingerling muskellunge in 20 waters annually
- 17,000 wild-strain fingerling trout in 4 streams and 15,000 adult trout in 3 lakes

County Success Stories

- Fisheries staff have established and maintained numerous musky fisheries that allow Hayward to claim its status as "Musky Capital of the World." Fisheries staff also created a nationally renowned fishery for trophy brown trout on the Namekagon River.

- Wildlife biologists manage Wisconsin's only elk herd in the Clam Lake area. Currently there are approximately 105 elk in the herd. Wildlife staff give approximately 25 presentations to about 1,000 elk tour participants in annually.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management